



Rockland Immunochemicals, Inc.  
P.O. Box 326  
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

### **CITATION AND NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY**

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described below.

#### **Date of Violation: On or about October 2012-March 2013**

##### **9 C.F.R. § 2.121(b)(1) Handling of animals.**

(b)(1) Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

Rockland Immunochemicals, Inc. (Rockland) failed to handle animals as carefully as possible in a manner that did not cause trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort.

#### **Date of Violation: February 23, 2013-February 24, 2013**

##### **9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.**

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care, use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and failed to observe animals daily to assess their health and well-being by not providing the recommended veterinary care for rabbit #1545 for two consecutive days.

#### **Date of Violation: March 13, 2013**

##### **9 C.F.R. § 2.31(c)(7) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).**

(c) IACUC functions. With respect to activities involving animals, the IACUC,

as an agent of the research facility, shall:

(7) Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities

Rockland failed to secure IACUC approval prior to deviating from a protocol by bleeding more than 35 milliliters of blood from rabbits weighing between 7 and 10 pounds.

**Date of Violation: March 13, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.32(a) Personnel qualifications.**

(a) It shall be the responsibility of the research facility to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians, and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment, and use are qualified to perform their duties. This responsibility shall be fulfilled in part through the provision of training and instruction to those personnel.

Rockland failed to properly train, instruct, and ensure the qualifications of assigned personnel. APHIS conducted personal interviews with staff members and observed their performance of daily duties. During these interviews and observances, APHIS noted the following:

- 1) Staff did not consistently utilize proper euthanasia methods.
- 2) Staff used improper techniques for sterile blood removal.
- 3) Staff did not consistently draw the proper amount of blood.

**Date of Violation: March 13, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.32(c)(1) Personnel qualifications.**

(c) Training and instruction of personnel must include guidance in at least the following areas:

(1) Humane methods of animal maintenance and experimentation including:

- (i) The basic needs of each species of animal;
- (ii) Proper handling and care for the various species of animals used by the facility;

Rockland failed to provide adequate training and instruction. Rockland did not have Standard Operating Procedures or training that addressed the basic husbandry needs of rabbits, guinea pigs, or hamsters, as well as proper handling and care.

**Date of Violation: March 13, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.**

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care, use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and failed to observe animals daily to assess their health and well-being. APHIS observed the following:

- 1) Rabbit #9811 had a watery discharge from both eyes, staining the fur below both eyes.
- 2) Rabbit #9449 had a watery discharge from both eyes, staining the fur between both eyes and the nose.
- 3) Rabbit #694 had a long left lower incisor tooth extending over the upper lip. The cage card stated the animal was being observed for weight loss which was identified on March 4, 2013.

**Date of Violation: March 13, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)** Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care and use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and to observe animals daily to assess their health and well-being.

APHIS observed rabbit #1594 had a swollen dewlap and a large sore on its right side. This animal was subsequently euthanized.

**Date of Violation: March 13, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 3.56(a)(1)** Sanitation.

(a) Cleaning of primary enclosures.

(1) Primary enclosures shall be kept reasonably free of excreta, hair, cobwebs and other debris by periodic cleaning. Measures shall be taken to prevent the wetting of rabbits in such enclosures if a washing process is used.

Rockland failed to keep primary enclosures reasonably free of excreta. APHIS observed the primary enclosure housing rabbit #10588 with an excessive amount of fecal matter. The rabbit had a significant amount of staining from this in its coat.

**Date of Violation: March 12, 2013 – March 20, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)** Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care, use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and failed to observe animals daily to assess their health and well-being. Rockland did not provide the recommended veterinary care for rabbit #783 for over a week.

**Date of Violation: March 23, 2013 – March 24, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)** Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care, use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and failed to observe animals daily to assess their health and well-being. Rockland did not provide the recommended veterinary care for rabbit #1515 for two consecutive days.

**Date of Violation: March 26, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.31(c)(7) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).**

(c) IACUC functions. With respect to activities involving animals, the IACUC, as an agent of the research facility, shall:

(7) Review and approve, require modifications in (to secure approval), or withhold approval of proposed significant changes regarding the care and use of animals in ongoing activities.

Rockland failed to secure IACUC approval prior to deviating from a protocol by bleeding more than 35 milliliters of blood from rabbits weighing between 7 and 10 pounds. APHIS observed that staff were provided Ehrlenmeyer flasks to conduct blood draws with, which only had a 50 ml measurement line, such that it was not possible for staff to draw no more than 35 milliliters of blood.

**Date of Violation: March 26, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b) Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.**

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required so that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care and use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and failed to observe animals daily to assess their health and well-being. APHIS observed the following:

- 1) Goats #507 and #705 had overgrown front hooves.
- 2) Rabbit #694 had a severe head tilt to the right and rolled over on its side in the enclosure. The rabbit was in treatment for low body weight and was previously noted on March 13, 2013, for having a long lower incisor. The rabbit was euthanized.
- 3) Rabbit #1307 was leaning against the side of its primary enclosure. The rabbit was listless and nonresponsive. The rabbit had not consumed any food and there was a lack of feces in the enclosure. The rabbit weighed 11 pounds on February 25, 2013 and on the day of the inspection it weighed 8.6 pounds.
- 4) Rabbit #700 had large mats in its coat and urine stains on its rear end.
- 5) Rabbit #10519 had long lower incisor teeth.
- 6) Rabbit #10343 had soiled, wet fur and skin on its left rear leg. It also

did not move its rear legs in a normal manner.

7) Rabbit #908 had wet fur and skin on the right side of its face and dewlap.

8) Rabbit 1289 was identified by facility staff as being under weight on March 18, 2013, but no treatment was started until March 26, 2013.

**Date of Violation: March 26, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.40(b)** Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(4) Adequate guidance to personnel involved in the care and use of animals regarding handling, immobilization, anesthesia, analgesia, tranquilization, and euthanasia.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care, use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and failed to provide adequate guidance to personnel. APHIS observed the following:

1) Standard Operating Procedures #8 and #9 state that prior to the collection of sterile blood, hair must be clipped at the site before methanol is applied. Rockland staff did not follow this procedure.

2) Rockland staff prepared rabbits for sterile blood draws by first anesthetizing with CO<sub>2</sub> and then performing intra-cardiac injection. The rabbits stay in the CO<sub>2</sub> chamber until their breathing slows. Rabbits occasionally wake up during the procedure and are euthanized by cervical dislocation. These practices conflict with Rockland's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #50, which states animals are to be kept in the CO<sub>2</sub> chamber until they stop breathing. SOP #50 also states cervical dislocation can only be used on unconscious animals.

**Date of Violation: March 26, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 3.53(a)(1)** Primary enclosures.

All primary enclosures for rabbits shall conform to the following requirements:

(a) General. (1) Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the rabbits from injury, to contain them, and to keep predators out.

Rockland failed to maintain primary enclosures that were structurally sound and in good repair. APHIS observed the following:

1) Primary enclosure for rabbit #1269 had expanded metal floor of which one end of the plate was sticking up inside the enclosure.

2) Primary enclosure for rabbit #992 had expanded metal floor of which one end of the plate was sticking up inside the enclosure.

**Date of Violation: April 22, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 2.33(b)(2)** Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

(b) Each research facility shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care.

Rockland failed to provide adequate veterinary care and use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. APHIS observed rabbit #10225 had an untreated, small sore on the right side of its back. □

**Date of Violation: April 22, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 3.53(a)(1)** Primary enclosures.

All primary enclosures for rabbits shall conform to the following requirements:

(a) General. (1) Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the rabbits from injury, to contain them, and to keep predators out.

Rockland failed to maintain primary enclosures that were structurally sound and in good repair. APHIS observed the primary enclosure for rabbit #1459 had a slatted metal floor of which one slat was detached and bent upwards inside the enclosure.

**Date of Violation: April 22, 2013**

**9 C.F.R. § 3.56(b)** Sanitation.

(b) Sanitization of primary enclosures.

(1) Primary enclosures for rabbits shall be sanitized at least once every 30 days in the manner provided in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(3) Primary enclosures for rabbits shall be sanitized by washing them with hot water (180 °F.) and soap or detergent as in a mechanical cage washer, or by washing all soiled surfaces with a detergent solution followed by a safe and effective disinfectant, or by cleaning all soiled surfaces with live steam or flame.

Rockland failed to properly sanitize primary enclosures for rabbits. APHIS observed urine scale, debris, and food residue on primary enclosures for rabbits following sanitization.

The penalty for the alleged violation(s) described above is \$32,071.